

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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ALL WHEAT NEGOTIATIONS POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EAGR OCON
SUBJECT: WHEAT CONFERENCE - COARSE GRAINS DISCUSSIONS:
STATUS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

REF.: (A) GENEVA 4092; (B) GENEVA 3667

1. SINCE MARCH 15 TABLING OF CHAIRMEN'S WORKING PAPER
ON POSSIBLE COARSE GRAINS TRADE CONVENTION (REF. A) NO
FURTHER MEETINGS OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS HAVE
OCCURRED. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WRIGHT (CANADA) AT
CONCLUSION OF MARCH 15 REVIEW OF WORKING PAPER SUGGESTED
THAT INTERESTED DELEGATIONS ENGAGE IN BILATERAL DISCUS-
SIONS FOR PURPOSE OF FURTHER REVIEW OF CHAIRMEN'S PAPER
AS WELL AS TO CONSIDER WAYS TO ADVANCE WORK OF COMMITTEE.

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DURING INTERIM THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF COARSE GRAINS ISSUES AND NO DISCERNIBLE
MOVEMENT TOWARD RESOLUTION OF CURRENT DEADLOCK.

2. CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL PROMPTED FOLLOWING COMMENTS
DURING MARCH 15 MEETING: EC - OBJECTED TO LACK OF
SPECIFIC PRICE OR QUANTITY TRIGGERS, AND LACK OF MIN/MAX

PRICE AND SUPPLY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS. NOTED LACK OF SUFFICIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INTERACTION OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS MARKETS, AND POSED PROBLEM OF LIVESTOCK FEED SECTOR POSSIBLY TRIGGERING WHEAT STOCKS ABSORPTION/RELEASE. U.S. - REITERATED EARLIER RESERVATIONS ON VALUE AND FEASIBILITY OF A COARSE GRAINS ARRANGEMENT, WARNING THAT INSISTENCE ON INCLUDING COARSE GRAINS IN A WHEAT CONVENTION COULD JEOPARDIZE BENEFITS FROM WHEAT TRADE AND FOOD AID CONVENTIONS.

3. CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN DUNKEL HAS NOW CALLED MEETING OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON COARSE GRAINS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 AT WHICH IT IS UNDERSTOOD CHAIRMAN WILL PROPOSE A CONCLUDING PAPER SUMARIZING PAST DISCUSSIONS AND VARIOUS COUNTRIES' POSITIONS, TO WHICH WILL BE ANNEXED THE PROPOSALS BY (1) EC, (2) ARGENTINA (REF. B) AND BY (3) COARSE GRAINS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. WE HAVE YET TO SEE PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR CONCLUDING PAPER, BUT ANTICIPATE CHAIRMAN'S DRAFT MAY OVERSTATE (FROM U.S. VIEWPOINT) DEGREE OF CONSENSUS ON DESIRABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF AN ARRANGEMENT FOR COARSE GRAINS. CHAIRMAN DUNKEL CONSIDERS PURPOSE OF PAPER TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS ON COARSE GRAINS IN EVENT SECOND STAGE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE IS CONVENED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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